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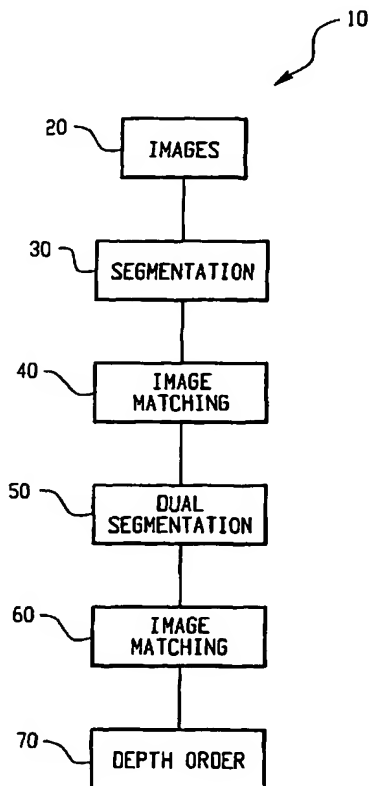
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DEPTH ORDERING OF DIGITAL IMAGES



(57) Abstract: In a method for relative depth of parts of one or more digital images, the digital images are regularized by segmentation, and at least part of the pixels of the images are assigned to respective segments. The relative motion of the segments for successive images is estimated by image matching. The image features of the segments are regularized by dual segmentation, in which the edges of the segments are found, pixels are assigned to the edges, and dual segments are defined. The relative motion of the dual segments for successive images is estimated by image segment matching in order to determine the relative depth order of the image segments.



TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 G06T

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, INSPEC, COMPENDEX, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>WO 02/21443 A (KONINKL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV) 14 March 2002 (2002-03-14)</p> <p>title abstract page 1, line 23 - line 26 page 3, line 11 - page 8, line 16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">----- -/--</p>	1-15

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>GAVRILA D M ED - JAIN A K ET AL: "Multi-feature hierarchical template matching using distance transforms" PATTERN RECOGNITION, 1998. PROCEEDINGS. FOURTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BRISBANE, QLD., AUSTRALIA 16-20 AUG. 1998, LOS ALAMITOS, CA, USA, IEEE COMPUT. SOC, US, 16 August 1998 (1998-08-16), pages 439-444, XP010297649 ISBN: 0-8186-8512-3 abstract section "1 Introduction" section "2.2 Match Measures and Strategies"</p>	1-15

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0221443	A	14-03-2002	CN 1388948 T	01-01-2003
			WO 0221443 A1	14-03-2002
			EP 1317735 A1	11-06-2003
			JP 2004508641 T	18-03-2004
			US 2002048402 A1	25-04-2002